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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/876,336	06/07/2001	C. Edward Luker	CG-838	9101

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LOUISVILLE, KY 40202

EXAMINER

MAI, TRI M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3727

DATE MAILED: 07/02/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/876,336

Applicant(s)

LUKER, C. EDWARD

Examiner

Tri M. Mai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10-12, 14, 16, 17, 20-22, and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robinson in view of either Abbott (D24862) or Miller (3869057).

Robinson teaches a container closure having a top, an annular inner skirt 28, and rib portions 82-86. Robinson meets all claimed limitations except for the outer skirt having a frusto-conical configuration. Either Abbot or Miller teaches that it is known in the art to provide an outer wall of a closure with a frusto-conical configuration. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a frusto-conical configuration on the outer wall of Robinson as taught by either Abbott or Miller to grip the closure easily.

3. Claims 4, 15, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Robinson combination as set forth in paragraph 2, and further in view of Marques et al. (5238130). The combination of Robinson meets all claimed limitations except for annular flange. Marques teaches that it is known in the art to provide an annular flange 44. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide an annular flange Robinson as taught by Marques to seal the container better.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 12, 13, 15-19, 22-24, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parchimy (FR197809) in view of either Abbot, and further in view of

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Elkner (D202827). Parchimy teaches a container closure having a top, an annular inner skirt. Parchimy meets all claimed limitations except for ribs and the outer skirt having a frusto-conical configuration.

Abbot teaches that it is known in the art to provide an outer wall of a closure with a frusto-conical configuration. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide frusto-conical configuration on the outer wall of Parchimy as taught by Abbott to grip the closure easily.

With respect to the ribs, Elkner teaches that it is known in the art to provide ribs connecting the inner wall with the outer wall as shown in Fig. 2 and 3 along the entire length of the inner wall and the outer wall. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide ribs connecting the inner wall with the outer wall in the modified container of Parchimy as taught by Elkner to provide added structural strength and/or support.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tri M. Mai whose telephone number is (703)308-1038. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lee W Young can be reached on (703)308-2572. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)305-3579 for regular communications and (703)305-3579 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1148.

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Tri M. Mai

Examiner

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T. Mai

June 25, 2002